

Town Council Unofficial Report  
for Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Commissioner Reports

Fire -- Mark Bapst reported he is still waiting on Porter Volunteer Fire Dept. legal department to develop a contract. In the meantime, not to worry -- we're still protected. As far as the issue of excess underbrush brush, he is still waiting to talk with the Environmental Commissioner. President Jeffrey Swoger asked that a plan to remove brush with emphasis on Town Park Property in particular be ready for early next spring. However, everyone needs to understand that fire prevention is really the key. The near-catastrophic fire at the east end of Town last spring involved no excess underbrush to speak of. It was the Marram grass and windy conditions. Reminder: please do not dump your yard waste on a vacant lot. There are two areas for dumping leaves: 1) behind the Security Office 2) by the small parking lot across from the Wheeler easement on West Road. Mr. Swoger also suggested that developing a Town evacuation plan would be a good idea -- to complement the Disaster Preparedness guidelines found at [http://www.duneacres.org/disaster\\_preparedness.htm](http://www.duneacres.org/disaster_preparedness.htm)

Roads -- On behalf of Mark Hull, Mr. Swoger reported that we have a load of salt sitting at John's Tree Service. Cathy Bomberger voiced her concern about the excessive ice that forms at the bottom of Circle Dr and East Rd. Be careful.

Parks -- Kellie Klein sent an email indicating that the ice-skating rink liner is being patched this upcoming weekend and with the weather cooperating, you should be able to skate on Christmas day.

Beach -- Mr. Swoger reported that the Town received the \$15,000 check from the Marine Development Fund. The plan is to use the money to build better access to East Beach from the parking lot via a walkway of sorts. Beach Commissioner Carstens is spearheading this project.

Building -- Lou Mellen reported that the Plan Commission met this month for the first time in four months! Slow fall. There is a new home project proposed at 31 Crest Dr and an extensive remodeling project getting underway at 14 Hill Dr. The new home construction at 12 Ridge is making progress, as are the on-going projects at 22 Summit Dr, 9 Beach Dr and 31 East Rd. Several loads of excavated sand have been dumped by the north side of the Clubhouse parking lot as well as at the bottom of Ridge Dr for fill. Excess sand continues to be dumped at Mr. Harris' lots on Summit Dr. The permit for the new home construction at 44 Circle Dr has expired; the owner will have to re-apply for the appropriate permits if the project starts up again.

Maintenance -- Dick Taylor reported that cleaning up the corner of Lupine Ln and East Rd has been discussed. He had nothing else to report.

Police -- Cecelia Call reported that remodeling the Security Office has been a huge improvement. The security cameras still need some dialing in. Beyond that, everything has been quiet.

Engineering -- Irv Call reported that the Clubhouse has been winterized. The water pumps are in good shape. The Clubhouse roof repair should start this week. The new window for the Security Office is in, stained and ready to be installed.

Environment -- Cathy Bomberger reported she has been attending Lake Michigan Coastal Program meetings involving the Great Lakes Restoration Program to figure out how to disperse various funds. She is trying to get information. She's also working with the Wildlife Habitat to develop an ecological plan for the safety of Dune Acres including fire control, tree control, water management, invasive plant control. The Clubhouse study plan is underway.

#### Other Reports

Clubhouse -- New Clubhouse coordinator Ivan Chermel reported that there were nine rentals in 2009, three at the higher price rate. A rental is already scheduled for next July.

Flood Report -- John Sullivan reported that the Flood Committee's recommendation is essentially do nothing at his time regarding flooding/standing water on the soccer field and playground. However, the Town Hall's parking lot should be regraded and at least one dry well sunk. However, if this extensive flooding reoccurs, the Weaver-Boos study will be revisited. A copy of the Flood Assessment Committee Report to Town Council is available at the Clerk-Treasurer's Office. A full copy of the Weaver-Boos study is available on the DA Website at

<http://www.duneacres.org/Flood%20Investigation%20Report.pdf>

#### Recap of '09

President Swoger spent a few moments reviewing the accomplishments this year including:

- Meeting all expenses without tapping into line of credit
- Passing a Dog Ordinance
- Passing a Golf Cart Ordinance
- Directing an Operating Manual be developed for each Commission position
- Hiring Weaver-Boos to investigate the Town's extensive flooding

- Installing a new work area in the Security Office
- Buying a street sweeper attachment for the Town's 4WD Mule utility vehicle
- Working with Eppley Institute to foster relations with the National Lakeshore
- Applying for three environmental grants
- Securing \$15,000 from the Marine Development Fund
- Finalizing a land gift from Jane Heenan and establishing The Heenan Trail
- Keeping the roads open during a harsh winter without much salt
- "Hiring" a new Clubhouse coordinator
- Increasing the rental fee for Clubhouse
- Raising building permit fees
- Having the DA Phone Directory updated, reprinted and distributed
- Conducting two Town clean-ups
- Ordering the demolition of an unsafe building

The Town Council is in the process of:

- Revising the DA Comprehensive Plan
- Upgrading the security cameras and recording system
- Installing a partial new roof for Clubhouse
- Installing a gate behind the Security Office

#### Other

A 2% pay increase for Town employees was approved for 2010. There were no increases in 2009. Discussion ensued on whether or not what is typically a contract position with the Town should continue to be a Town Employee position. The discussion was tabled for further review.

Finally, 2010 census takers are wanted. You must be 18 years old and be willing to take a test. Hourly pay will range between \$10 and \$12. These jobs start on April 1, 2010. If you or someone you know might be interested, further information is available at the DA Security Office.

Bob Evans, Editor  
December 17, 2009

Note: This unofficial report covers only pertinent details that may be of interest to DA residents in general. The official Town Council Minutes will be posted on the DA website after the Town Council approves them, at which time this report will be removed.